

Applicant : Niall R. Lynam  
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**Remarks:**

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Final Office Action dated May 8, 2006.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 12-21 have been canceled without prejudice and independent claim 1 has been amended as set forth above. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS**

Claims 1-5, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt, U.S. Patent No. 6,030,084, in view of Gillich et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,709,119.

Claims 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt, in view of Gillich et al., and further in view of Wheatley et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,262,894.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the reasons set forth below.

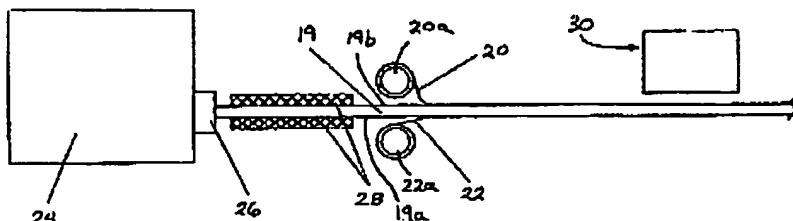
Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the wide angle reflective element for a mirror assembly for a vehicle comprises a polymeric mirror substrate having an exterior surface comprising a less curved inboard surface and a more curved outboard surface. The polymeric mirror substrate comprises a polymeric resin material. The polymeric mirror substrate has a reflector disposed on a surface thereof to provide a reflective element for a vehicle mirror assembly. The thin at least partially flexible glass sheet has an attaching surface opposed to and adhered to the exterior surface of the polymeric mirror substrate so as to provide an anti-abrasion sheet at the outboard and inboard surfaces of the exterior surface of the polymeric

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mirror substrate. The thin at least partially flexible glass sheet substantially conforms to the exterior surface of the polymeric mirror substrate when adhered thereto.

With respect to the rejection of independent claim 1 in view of the combination of Schmidt and Gillich et al., Applicant submits that this combination does not disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the wide angle reflective element of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claim 1 and in the claims depending therefrom. Schmidt discloses a combination curved and flat mirror that has a varying radius of curvature. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a thin flexible glass sheet that is adhered to and substantially conforms with a curved exterior surface of the mirror.

The combination of Gillich et al. and Schmidt also does not disclose or teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, and contrary to the statements in the Office Action, Gillich et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest a thin flexible glass sheet as is disclosed and claimed in the present application. To the contrary, the protective layer 101 of Gillich et al. is a hard coat similar to the hard coats discussed and distinguished in the background section of the present invention. In stark contrast to the thin flexible glass sheet of the claimed invention, and as discussed in the background section of the present application (see page 1, paragraph [0002] of the present application), such hard coats are provided on the first or outer or exterior surface of the reflective element which is contacted by the exterior elements, and are typically applied by dip coating or vacuum deposition techniques. The hard coat of Gillich et al. is not a thin flexible glass sheet, such as the thin flexible glass sheet 20 shown in Figure 5 of the present application (reproduced to the right), as is clearly evident by



the disclosure in Gillich et al. that the hard coat of Gillich et al. has a maximum thickness of 1,000 nanometers (see column 2, lines 32-36 of Gillich et al.). Such a hard coat thus is less than

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$1 \times 10^{-9}$  millimeters thick and thus such a hard coat is not provable as a thin flexible sheet as disclosed and claimed in the present application. As stated in the background section of the present application, such a hard coat will not provide the benefits of the claimed invention.

The hard coat of Gillich et al. is applied to the body by deposition in vacuum or by thermal vaporization or by electron beam vaporization or by sputtering or by plasma polymerization or by chemical vapor deposition (see column 7, line 66 through column 8, line 12 of Gillich et al.). Such a hard coat thus does not have an attaching surface for adhering to an exterior surface of a polymeric mirror substrate so as to provide an anti-abrasion sheet at the outboard and inboard surfaces of the exterior surface of the polymeric mirror substrate. Thus, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Gillich et al. of a thin flexible glass sheet, and there is no disclosure or suggestion in Gillich et al. of providing a thin flexible glass sheet that has an attaching surface that is opposed to and adhered to a polymeric substrate surface and that substantially conforms to a curved surface of the substrate, such as is claimed in independent claim 1 of the present application.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 2-11, Applicant submits that the combination of Schmidt and Gillich et al., either alone or in further combination with Wheatley et al., does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention for at least all of the reasons set forth above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Schmidt nor Gillich et al., either alone or in combination with one another or with any other prior art of record, disclose, teach, suggest or render obvious the wide angle reflective element of the present invention, particularly as set forth in independent claim 1 and in the claims depending therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

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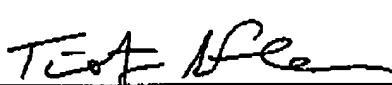
Claims 1-11 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NJALL R. LYNAM

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP

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